



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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**FORMER U.S. POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN EL PASO
SENTENCED IN WORKER'S COMPENSATION SCAM**

John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney, announced that in El Paso, Jose Barraza, former employee with U.S. Postal Service, was sentenced to ten months in federal prison yesterday afternoon for fraudulently acquiring workers compensation payments in connection with an alleged on-the-job injury to his arm.

United States District Judge Frank Montalvo also ordered that Barraza pay \$1,400 in a special assessment to the Crime Victims Fund, pay \$54,851.30 in restitution to the U.S. Postal Service and Department of Labor, Office of Worker's Compensation, and that he be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On June 30, 2009, a jury found Barraza guilty on 14-counts of fraudulently acquiring workers compensation payments. Barraza had claimed to be unable to work, completely disabled and in need of surgery for his injured arm. However, surveillance videos shown to the jury depicted Barraza at a UTEP football game, painting his house, and throwing tires and other debris into a dumpster, all with full use of his arm. As a result of his fraudulent claims, Barraza had been paid compensation and medical costs of \$54,851.30.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Service—Office of Inspector General. It was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney J. Brandy Gardes.

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